



**UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

Affiliation: Command Guidelines

Subject: Hazardous Materials Response

Number: 450-11

Approved: 10/29/2020 By: AC Stephen Higgs

Last Reviewed: 12/08/2025 By: Capt. Chad Green

PURPOSE:

To provide expectations and best practices for first arriving apparatus during Hazardous Materials Incidents.

1.0 Overview:

While addressing life safety needs, it is important for the hazardous materials response is to identify hazardous products. It is only after recognizing and identifying the hazardous material that actions can or cannot be taken. Identification should come prior to containment and must come before control is initiated.

2.0 Safety:

- Park uphill/upwind.
- Avoid physical contact with material
- Avoid inhalation of fumes, smoke and vapors.

3.0 Size-up:

- Is it Contained or leaking?
- Spill size – large >50 gallons or small <50 gallons,
- Is there a reaction (burning, off-gassing, or creating any other hazards beyond a simple spill)?
- Call for Hazmat Team or contact Hazmat Supervisor, if not already responding.

4.0 Identification:

Identify the chemical from a safe location. Use the following resources to gather information:

- Placards, 4-digit ID numbers and Container Labels.
- Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG).
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provides product specifics.
- Bill of Lading has product information and an Emergency Contact Number.
- Utilize other documents such as Railcar Manifest
- Responsible party such as driver, operator, supervisor, etc. can provide needed information.



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5.0 Confinement:

- Identify hot zone with ERG and create a perimeter around the incident at the designated distance.
- Create defined access points and communicate those areas to incoming personnel.
- Contain product – dike/dam/divert, catch basin, protect storm drains.

6.0 Isolate the Scene:

- Safely evacuate the hot zone
 - Move people to an area of safe refuge within the hot zone. Consider sheltering in place if decontamination is required or until the Decon corridor has been established.
- Deny entry